

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) **A p[[P]]article board of substantially even thickness, said particle board comprising:**
a lower and an upper surface layer having a finer fraction of particles, and
between these surface layers an intermediate layer having a coarser fraction of particles
said intermediate layer having a varying density,
wherein:
said intermediate layer has **one or more first regions at least one stranded part**
of **relatively** higher density **and one or more second regions of relatively lower**
density; and than surrounding areas,
said one or more first regions and said one or more second regions
continuously extend between said lower surface layer and said upper surface layer wherein
said stranded part is provided with a plurality of fastener holes.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) **The p[[P]]article board according to Claim 1, wherein at least one**
of the one or more first regions of relatively higher density is at least one stranded part is
disposed **substantially adjacent** ~~on~~ an edge of the particle board.
5. (Currently amended) **The p[[P]]article board according to Claim 1, wherein at least one**
of said one or more first regions of relatively higher density is at least one stranded part is
disposed substantially midway between two **opposing** edges ~~parts~~ of said intermediate layer.

6-10. (Canceled)

11. (New) The particle board according to Claim 1, wherein:
the particle board has at least one edge oriented in a longitudinal direction; and
the one or more first regions of relatively higher density extend in the longitudinal direction.

12. (New) The particle board according to Claim 11, wherein the one or more first regions of relatively higher density are further disposed substantially adjacent the at least one edge oriented in the longitudinal direction.

13. (New) The particle board according to Claim 11, wherein:
the at least one edge comprises two edges oriented in the longitudinal direction; and
at least one of the one or more first regions of relatively higher density is further disposed substantially midway between the two edges oriented in the longitudinal direction.

14. (New) The particle board according to Claim 1, wherein:
the particle board has at least one edge oriented in a transverse direction; and
the one or more first regions of relatively higher density extend in the transverse direction.

15. (New) The particle board according to Claim 14, wherein the one or more first regions of relatively higher density are further disposed substantially adjacent the at least one edge oriented in the transverse direction.

16. (New) The particle board according to Claim 14, wherein:
 - the at least one edge comprises two edges oriented in the transverse direction; and
 - at least one of the one or more first regions of relatively higher density is further disposed substantially midway between the two edges oriented in the transverse direction.

17. (New) The particle board according to Claim 1, wherein:
 - the particle board has at least one edge oriented in a longitudinal direction and at least one edge oriented in a transverse direction; and
 - the one or more first regions of relatively higher density extend in both the transverse direction and the longitudinal direction such that the one or more first regions are substantially diagonal relative to the edges of the particle board.